

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /081 W
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P R 090645Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3204
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0640

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO
SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROTEST NORWEGIAN EXPULSION OF EMBASSY AND TASS
OFFICIAL ON SPY CHARGES

REFS: (A) OSLO 0605 (B) OSLO 480 (C) OSLO 0521

1. SUMMARY: THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN NORWAY'S
AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW ON FEB 6 TO PROTEST AGAINST RECENT NORWEGIAN
EXPULSION OF SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND JOURNALIST FOR SPYING.
SOVIETS SAID NORWEGIAN ACTIONS ARE PART OF NORWAY'S PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN AGAINST USSR. NORWEGIANS REJECTED SOVIET PROTEST.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON SUNDAY FEB 6 SOVIET MFA SCANDINAVIAN OFFICE DIRECTOR
SOBOLEV CALLED IN NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW PETTER GRAVER
AND DELIVERED ORAL NOTE OF PROTEST AGAINST NORWAY'S RECENT
EXPULSION OF SIX SOVIET CITIZENS FOR SPYING. GON
ORDERED THE FIVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS AND TASS CORRESPONDENT FROM
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NORWAY JAN 28 FOR ESPIONAGE AGAINST NORWAY (REFS B & C).

3. SOBOLEV'S PROTEST SAID NORWEGIAN EXPULSION WAS "UN-
FOUNDED" AND THAT CHARGES AGAINST SOVIETS WERE "FABRICATIONS
BASED ON PROVOCATIONS." GRAVER REPORTEDLY SAID EXPULSIONS
WERE ORDERED AFTER THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AND WERE BASED ON
FACTS.

4. SOBOLEV WENT ON TO SAY THAT NORWEGIAN ACTIONS ARE DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE HOSTILE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN NORWEGIANS HAVE DIRECTED AGAINST THE USSR LATELY. CAMPAIGN, HE SAID, INCLUDES CRASS PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET EMBASSY AND OTHER SOVIET INSTITUTIONS IN NORWAY AS WELL AS UNLAWFUL ACTIONS AGAINST SOVIET DIPLOMATS, INCLUDING ASSAULT ON THEM. THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ILLEGAL DECISION TO EXPELL THE SOVIET CITIZENS AND THE UNFRIENDLY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE USSR RESTS ON THE NORWEGIAN SIDE, SOBOLEV SAID. (SO-CALLED ASSAULT CHARGE STEMS FROM SOVIET THIRD SECRETARY PRINTSIPALOV'S ALLEGATION THAT POLICE ROUGHED HIM UP AND STOLE MONEY FROM HIM WHEN THEY ARRESTED NORWEGIAN MFA OFFICIAL GUNVOR HAAVIK WITH HIM JAN 27.)

5. MFA RELEASED SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 2 AND 3 TO PRESS. PRESS CONTACTED AMBASSADOR GRAVER IN MOSCOW WHO CHARACTERIZED THE SOVIET PROTEST AS "MILD." REPORTEDLY HE SPECULATED TO PRESS THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, IS SEEKING TO PREVENT MATTER FROM BECOMING AN UNNECESSARY STRAIN ON BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT: MFA DID NOT RELEASE SUBSTANCE PARA 4 TO PRESS, ACCORDING TO MFA POLITICAL UNDER DIRECTOR LEIF MEVIK, BECAUSE IT REFERRED TO SOVIETS' REPEATED CHARGES THAT NORWEGIAN PRESS IS CONDUCTING ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN, AND NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE TO RELEASE THIS STATEMENT WOULD PROVOKE PRESS INTO ADDITIONAL FULMINATIONS AGAINST USSR. APART FROM SOVIET OSLO AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL REJECTION OF THE SPY CHARGES AGAINST THE EXPELLED SOVIETS, MEVIK SAID THE MOSCOW PROTEST WAS THE ONLY REACTION GON HAS RECEIVED FROM

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SOVIET SIDE ON SPY AFFAIR. HE SAID MFA OFFICIALS DID NOT DISAGREE WITH GRAVER'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SOVIET REACTION AS MILD, BUT THEY DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE ANY SUCH PUBLIC DESCRIPTION OF PROTEST. NORWEGIANS ARE SEEKING TO PLAY DOWN THE SPY INCIDENT PUBLICLY SO THAT IT WILL NOT INFLAME BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH USSR AND UPSET DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON NORTHERN ISSUES BETWEEN THEM.

ANDERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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